



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 28, 2011

Ms. Ann Montgomery-Moran
Assistant County & District Attorney
Ellis County
109 South Jackson
Waxahachie, Texas 75165

OR2011-17394

Dear Ms. Montgomery-Moran:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 438142.

The Ellis County and District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney") received a request for information relating to a specified court case. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This section encompasses information made confidential by other statutes, such as section 261.201(a) of the Family Code, which provides, in relevant part:

(a) [T]he following information is confidential, is not subject to public release under [the Act], and may be disclosed only for purposes consistent with this code and applicable federal or state law or under rules adopted by an investigating agency:

- (1) a report of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect made under this chapter and the identity of the person making the report; and
- (2) except as otherwise provided in this section, the files, reports, records, communications, audiotapes, videotapes, and working papers

used or developed in an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). The submitted information relates to a charge of alleged online solicitation of a minor. *See id.* § 261.001(1) (defining “abuse” for purposes of chapter 261 of the Family Code). In this instance, the complainant at issue is a child or minor for purposes of section 261.201. *See id.* § 101.003 (defining “child” or “minor” for purposes of Fam. Code ch. 261); Penal Code § 33.021(a) (defining “minor” for purposes of Penal Code § 33.021). Accordingly, we find the submitted information falls within the scope of section 261.201 of the Family Code. You have not indicated the district attorney has adopted a rule that governs the release of this type of information; therefore, we assume no such regulation exists. Given that assumption, we conclude the district attorney must withhold the submitted information in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code. *See Open Records Decision No. 440 at 2 (1986)* (addressing predecessor statute). As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General’s Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Mack T. Harrison
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MTH/em

Ref: ID# 438142

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)